or a fragment thereof. For example, peptide synthesis can be performed using various solid-phase techniques (Roberge, J.Y. et al. (1995) Science 269:202-204) and automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using the ABI 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 14, 23, and 25 as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, the non-amended pending claims 2, 15-19, 22, 24, and 26-28 are also listed.

1. (Thrice Amended) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and

b) a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and which retains glutathione conjugating activity.

2. (Once Amended) A purified polypeptide of claim 1 having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

14. (Once Amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 in conjunction with a suitable carrier.

15. A purified antibody which specifically binds to the GSTS of claim 1.

16. A purified agonist of the GSTS of claim 1.

17. A purified antagonist of the GSTS of claim 1.

18. A method for treating or preventing an immune response, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the antagonist of claim 15.

19. A method for treating or preventing a cancer, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the antagonist of claim 15.

22. A method of producing an antibody using the protein of claim 1, comprising;

a) immunizing an animal with the protein or an antigenically-effective fragment thereof, under conditions whereby an antibody response is elicited; and

b) isolating from the immunized animal antibodies that specifically bind to the protein.

23. (Once Amended) A method for using a polypeptide to screen a plurality of molecules or compounds to identify a molecule or compound that specifically binds the polypeptide, the method comprising:

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(a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with the compound or molecule under conditions to allow complex formation; and

(b) detecting complex formation, wherein the presence of the complex identifies a molecule or compound that specifically binds the polypeptide.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the molecules and compounds are selected from DNA molecules, RNA molecules, peptide nucleic acids, agonists, antagonists, antibodies, immunoglobulins, pharmaceutical agents, and drug compounds.

25. (Once Amended) A method of using a polypeptide to purify a molecule or compound which specifically binds the polypeptide from a sample, the method comprising:

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a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding;

b) recovering the bound polypeptide; and

d) separating the polypeptide from the molecule or compound, thereby obtaining

purified molecule or compound.

26. A method of making a monoclonal antibody, the method comprising:

a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide of claim 1 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;

b) isolating antibody producing cells from the animal;

c) fusing the antibody producing cells with immortalized cells in culture to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells;

d) culturing the hybridoma cells; and

e) isolating from the culture monoclonal antibodies which bind specifically to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. A method for screening a molecule or compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a molecule or compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

28. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.